

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 30, 2002 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 6-8, 12, and 13 are pending in this application, with claim 6 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed July 30, 2002, 6-8, 12, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over JP 59-092103 (Nitou).

Independent claim 6 recites "coiling the continuous intermediate strip without subjecting said continuous intermediate strip to an cutting to form an intermediate coil having an intermediate coil weight comprising at least 40 tons".

Part of the Examiner's rationale for rejecting the claims is that Nitou allegedly discloses coiling the strip to a coil weight of 203 tons on page 4, col. 2. The Examiner further states that this section of the Nitou teaches the requirement in independent claim 6 for coiling the continuous intermediate strip without cutting to form an intermediate coil having an intermediate coil weight of at least 40 tons. The Examiner has now provided an English translation of Nitou. The section of Nitou referred to by the Examiner, page 4, col. 2, begins on the first paragraph on page 6 of the English translation. As is made clear by the translation, this section of Nitou refers to the processing capacity of the pre-stage rolling apparatus (A) and the post-stage rolling apparatus (B) and does not disclose the weight of the intermediate coil. Accordingly, this section of Nitou fails to teach or suggest anything about the intermediate coil weight. In fact, Nitou fails to specifically state the capacity of the intermediate coil SC₁ of the intermediate strip. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Nitou fails to teach or suggest the limitation of



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